



# Meeting Minutes: 05/17/2023

Skilled Trades Building - UA Cossatot De Queen Campus

## Attendance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Branson, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Revels, Vice President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Bunyard, Secretary/Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Bristow
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Steve Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ned Hendrix
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angie Walker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiffany Maurer, Ex Officio

Others in Attendance: Diana Ramirez, Megan Williams, Suzanne Babb

## Minutes

The board voted to approve the 4/19/2022 minutes with a motion from Dr. Steve Cole and a second from Angie Walker.

Tiffany updated the members on the financial reports, with the current bank balance standing at \$121,707.83. Several memberships are still pending payment. Beth Tody has joined as a new member, effective 05/17/2023. The board agreed that Tiffany will need to update the FRIENDS Foundation Summary and Success form to include recent accomplishments from the past year to be used to gain new 3-year commitments from members/donors. Letters requesting renewal commitments will be drafted and sent to members at the end of their commitment terms.

Tiffany and Diana updated the group on the Community Navigator grant. Diana and Megan plan to begin weekly outreach efforts to visit businesses in person on Mondays throughout the summer. Tiffany and Diana are scheduled to interview with KDQN every month on the first Thursday morning and Diana will interview on the Spanish KDQN radio station monthly, as well. Diana and Megan will attend monthly radio interviews with ED88. Suzanne Babb mentioned the Chamber of Commerce building needing mold abatement and foundation repairs, as well as needed renovations to the Chamber building, and the group asked if those expenses could be allowable under the CNPP grant. Tiffany will reach out to the SBA contractor to ask about the allowability of the costs. CNPP staff are scheduling several events this summer, as listed below:

- Greg Revels will be presenting a Starting a Business Series
  - June 13 – 5pm – Filing Articles of Incorporation
  - June 27 – 5pm – Establishing Your Business with the IRS
  - July 11 – 5pm – Business Law Basics
- Jennifer Collier is presenting Canva workshops this month
  - May 23 – 6pm-8pm Canva Design Training Pt. 1
  - May 25 – 6pm-8pm Canva Design Training Pt. 2
- Keisha McKinney will be providing another website training presentation



## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

- Date TBD
- ServSafe Training
  - English – July 12 (class) July 13 (test)
  - Spanish – July 10 (class) July 11 (test)
- Women in Leadership Panel Discussion
  - Date TBD

Angie and Tara Morpew discussed the potential for the group purchasing the De Queen Country Club as an economic development project. They declined the current offer, as the cost would not allow a return on investment. The current lease on the motel should last through the end of the year, at which point the owner will consider selling the property with the motel included.

Mike Branson called for CEDS committee updates from committee chairs, with reports provided below: **Entertainment/Recreation (chairperson: Ned Hendrix)** – Chairperson absent, no new updates. Several community members have expressed interest in participating on this committee and the group recommended Ned and/or Tiffany reach out to them to include them in meetings moving forward.

**Housing (chairperson: Angie Walker)** – The Norris Group has expressed interest in leasing property to install tiny homes to use as temporary housing for their employees to reside in while building apartment units. No contracts have been signed or agreements put in place yet. The committee is also researching USDA and HUD housing programs to reduce the financial burden on developers looking to add low to mid-income housing in the area.

**Job Diversity/Quality (chairperson: Jay Bunyard)** – Chairperson absent, no new updates

**Broadband (chairpersons: Greg Revels & Jimmy Bristow)** – No updates this month. Greg and Jimmy are working on building the committee and adding members as suggested by Glen Howie during their meeting about community-wide engagement in broadband expansion.

Dr. Steve Cole updated the group on the solar project initiative, with all county organizations having signed contracts with Scenic Hill Solar to explore the potential cost savings through renewable energy with their firm. Property is available for the project and isn't expected to be a barrier.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.